

Michael F. Easley  
Governor



## State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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### **GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR FISCAL REFORM**

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley today, at the North Carolina Citizens for Business & Industry Annual Meeting (NCCBI), announced the creation of the Business Council for Fiscal Reform. The Governor's Commission to Promote Government Efficiency and Savings on State Spending recommended the creation of this council in order to establish a permanent entity to identify and reduce government costs.

"This council will be comprised exclusively of business leaders, with the goal ensuring that government operates as efficiently as possible," said Easley. "Only with a sustained effort toward reducing the costs of government can we lower taxes in the future."

Council members will include Sue Cole, president of U.S. Trust Company of North Carolina and current NCCBI chair; Bill Coley, former Duke Power president; Jim Hance, vice chairman and chief financial officer of Bank of America; Jim Hyler, First Citizens Bank executive and former NCCBI chair; and Ken Thompson, president and CEO of Wachovia. Additional members will be appointed.

The Governor's Commission to Promote Government Efficiency and Savings on State Spending has issued a report with recommendations on how to make government more efficient. By mid-February, state agencies had reviewed the recommendations and were constructing plans or offering alternatives to implement the recommendations. The council will oversee progress toward action on these recommendations.

"You know, and I know, that too many of these reports sit on the shelf," said Easley. "These commissions form in bad times, make their reports in time for the recommendations to be forgotten in good times. The cycle repeats itself, and the cycle must be broken. Efficiency cannot wait – and these business leaders will not let it wait until the next recession."

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